

WASHINGTON STATE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER

Criminal Justice Research & Statistics Center

Informing a data-driven justice system

Assessing Disparities in the Criminal Justice System by Each Decision Point

Vasiliki Georgoulas-Sherry, Ph.D.



Contents

Abstract.....	3
Background	3
First decision point: Policing.....	4
Second decision point: Trial/sentencing	4
Third decision point: Incarceration	5
Data Parameters and Methods	5
Limitations.....	6
Results.....	7
Unique WSP arrest events and population estimates of Washington.....	7
Unique AOC sentencing events and population estimates of Washington	11
Unique DOC admission events and population estimates of Washington	15
Discussion and Conclusion	18
Disclaimer.....	19
References	19

To accommodate people with disabilities, this document is available in alternate formats by calling the Office of Financial Management at 360-902-0555. TTY/TDD users should contact OFM through the Washington Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-833-6388.

Abstract

The Washington Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) housed in the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) applied for and received the 2018 State Justice Statistics (SJS) Grant from Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to assess disparities in the criminal justice system by each decision point. A consistent concern of policymakers and the public is how the state's criminal justice system dispenses justice – and if it does so equally. (Donnelly, 2017; Heley & Eberhardt, 2018; Kovera, 2019; Monk, 2019). The evidence of differential treatment, unequal dispensation, and injustice in the “justice” system is significant (Kovera, 2019).

Because the problems are historically rooted, ongoing, and pervasive, it is even more critical to assess disparities in the criminal justice system. More specifically to do this by looking at each ‘decision point’ that the legal system makes throughout the process (i.e., policing/arrests, trial/sentencing, and incarceration/community supervision) (Donnelly, 2017; Heley & Eberhardt, 2018; Monk, 2019). Data continues to show that racial disparities persist at every point in the criminal justice system in our state and across the nation. Communities of color are statistically overrepresented in the criminal justice system (Donnelly, 2017; Heley & Eberhardt, 2018; Kovera, 2019). This report brings data together to explore these issues.

Here are some important findings:

1. While the overall state population is almost evenly distributed in terms of gender, in all decision points (i.e., WSP arrest events, AOC sentencing events, and DOC admission events), more than 3/4ths of the sample was identified as male.
2. While 4% of the overall state population reported as African American within the U.S. Census Bureau, the African American community accounted for 13% of two criminal justice decision points, WSP arrest events and AOC sentencing events, and 14% of DOC admission events.
3. Furthermore, while 8% of the overall state population reported as Asian within the U.S. Census Bureau, the Asian community accounted for approximately 4% of two criminal justice decision points, WSP arrest events and AOC sentencing events, and 5% of DOC admission events.
4. The state needs more comprehensive research to understand where disparities exist and how policies have impacted those differences over time.

Background

The U.S. corrections system stands alone as the largest system of its type in the world. The U.S. holds approximately 25% of the world's incarcerated individuals, which is the largest global per capita rate of incarceration.

These significant numbers have previously masked the disparities that pervade the criminal justice system. The historical context on race makes it clear that disparities in the criminal justice system illuminate a legacy of the country's history with discrimination, segregation, and mistreatment of racialized communities (Donnelly, 2017; Durose et al., 2007; Heley & Eberhardt, 2018; Kovera, 2019; Monk, 2019). The functioning of a fair and just criminal justice system is under threat if we fail to address implicit or explicit bias within the system, policies or practices that burden communities of color, and structural inequalities such as poverty and lack of access to quality schools and health care (Heley & Eberhardt, 2018).

Race and ethnicity disparities are the social construct process rooted in the byproducts and complexities of systematic racism (Brame et al., 2014; Donnelly, 2017; Heley & Eberhardt, 2018). Throughout the nation, communities of color are far more likely to enter the nation's justice system than the general population (Piquero, 2015). State and federal governments are aware of this disparity, and researchers and policymakers are studying the drivers behind the statistics and what strategies might be employed to address the disparities, ensuring evenhanded processes at all points in the criminal justice system (Monk, 2019). Particularly, studies have shown that white non-Hispanics are less likely to be arrested than African Americans. Once arrested, African Americans are more likely to be convicted, and are then more likely to experience incarceration and incarcerated sentences (Durose et al., 2007;

Kim & Kiesel, 2018). According to Kovera, (2019), “African-American adults are 5.9 times as likely to be incarcerated than White non-Hispanics and Hispanics are 3.1 times as likely, and as of 2001, one of every three African Americans boys born in that year could expect to go to prison in his lifetime, as could one of every six Latinos—compared to one of every seventeen White non-Hispanic boys” (1142). While racial disparities are present among women, these disparities are less substantial than their male counterparts (Heley & Eberhardt, 2018).

First decision point: Policing

Disparities in the criminal justice system are present early in the criminal justice system (Brame et al., 2014; Kim & Kiesel, 2018; Kovera, 2019; Monk, 2019). The first ‘point’ (or decision) into the criminal justice system comes from law enforcement encounters. Data shows differential treatment and unequal dispensation during this decision point (Brame et al., 2014; Kim & Kiesel, 2018; Piquero, 2015). Overall, African Americans comprise more than a fourth of all individuals arrested in the United States (Donnelly, 2017). Law enforcement is more likely to be lenient and to use less force with white non-Hispanic individuals than with African American individuals (Kovera, 2019). Law enforcement also differentially arrests people of different races for the same offenses (Brame et al., 2014; Durose et al., 2007; Piquero, 2015). Similar racial trends are present in the U.S. youth population, with African American youth accounting for over a third of all juvenile arrests (Monk, 2019).

These disparities are present in traffic stops — the most common interaction people have with the criminal legal system. Piquero (2015) analyzed more than 90 million stops from 35 municipal police departments, and 21 state patrol agencies across the U.S. found that “police stop, and search decisions suffer from persistent racial bias” (27). Similar findings were revealed in the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s study that showed the disproportionate rate of police stops, searches, and arrests in African American residents (Durose et al., 2007). Furthermore, Brame et al., (2014), who conducted archival analyses, found similar results: traffic stop data as early as 1999 showed that law enforcement disproportionately stopped more African American drivers than white non-Hispanic or Hispanic drivers. Research evaluated law enforcement traffic stop trends, similar disparities are shown in non-traffic stops where law enforcement can stop individuals for reasonable suspicion (Donnelly, 2017). According to Monk (2019), “the courts have held that a wide variety of ambiguous behaviors can provoke reasonable suspicion ... this wide latitude in what constitutes a permissible suspicion to stop a suspect provides fertile ground for racial bias to influence the actions of police” (1594). As such, law enforcement disproportionately stops more individuals of color. An analysis of New York City “stop and frisk” incidents revealed that Hispanics and African Americans were more likely to be stopped by police than were white non-Hispanic (Brame et al., 2014; Branson & Carson, 2019; Durose et al., 2007; Kim & Kiesel, 2018; Kovera, 2019; Monk, 2019).

As racial disparities significantly impact the first criminal justice system decision point, these disproportions continue down the system negatively affecting fairness in the justice system.

Second decision point: Trial/sentencing

Although racial disparities in policing account for approximately 70% of the racial disparities in incarceration, decisions (i.e., detention, plea deals, sentencing) that judges or attorneys make following someone’s arrest also impact sentencing trends for African American and white non-Hispanic defendants (Clair et al., 2016).

Research has shown that African American and Hispanics defendants were more likely than whites to have their bond set higher, be considered higher flight and safety risk, and denied bail. This all results in defendants being held in jail or prison until they go to trial. African American defendants were 3.5 times more likely to be incarcerated in local jails than that of white non-Hispanics (Donnelly, 2017; Kovera, 2019). If offered bail, African American and Hispanic defendants were less likely to make that bail than were white non-Hispanic defendants who had been offered similar bail amounts (Clair et al., 2016). Furthermore, findings have revealed that the bail amounts offered to African American and Hispanic defendants were higher than those offered to white non-Hispanic defendants. This applies even after controlling for relevant legal characteristics, including those associated with risk of charge severity and dangerousness or flight. In terms of pleas, white non-Hispanic defendants were more likely than African

American defendants to be offered pleas that involve community service, a fine, or time served. Whereas African American defendants were more likely than white non-Hispanic defendants to be offered pleas that involve jail or prison time (Kovera, 2019).

In the sentencing process, differential treatment continues to be present (Clair et al., 2016; Kovera, 2019). Controlling for legally relevant factors (i.e., crime severity, offense type) that could and should influence sentencing decisions, African American and Hispanics defendants received harsher sentences than white non-Hispanic defendants. In fact, African American defendants were more likely to be sentenced to death than other defendants (Donnelly, 2017). Clair et al. (2016) found that African American and Hispanic defendants who were charged with misdemeanors or felonies were more likely to receive sentences involving incarceration than white non-Hispanic defendants. 'First-time offenders' African American defendants also received longer sentences than their white counterpart 'repeat offenders' African American defendants. The latter received harsher sentences that contribute to racial disparities in prison populations. These factors raise the likelihood that African American defendants fall under the three-strikes laws that mandate life sentences for those convicted of three felonies (Donnelly, 2017; Kovera, 2019). These trends were found in juvenile populations as judges were more likely to place juvenile African American defendants in discipline-based programs that focus on physical activity (e.g., boot camps) and juvenile white non-Hispanics defendants in therapeutic programs (Kovera, 2019).

Third decision point: Incarceration

The U.S. has a greater proportion of incarcerated individuals than any other country in the world. These rates have contributed to unprecedented racial imbalances in U.S. prisons. (Donnelly, 2017; Kovera, 2019). Racially disparate imprisonment rates have a long and complicated history (Monk, 2019). Although African Americans and Latinos comprise about a third of the U.S. population, they make up more than half of the U.S. prison population (Donnelly, 2017; Heley & Eberhardt, 2018; Kovera, 2019; Monk, 2019). Findings have revealed that one in four African Americans men are incarcerated at some point in their lives (Kovera, 2019). According to Kovera (2019), "although the extent of the disparity in imprisonment is less for Hispanics, they still represent about 22% of the prison population despite making up only 18% of the population" (1139). African Americans are incarcerated at a state average of 1,240 per 100,000 residents, whereas Latino Americans are imprisoned at a rate of 349 per 100,000 residents. White non-Hispanic individuals, meanwhile, are incarcerated at 261 per 100,000 residents (Donnelly, 2017; Heley & Eberhardt, 2018; Monk, 2019).

These racial disparities exist for many different serious offenses (Kovera, 2019). More than 56% of the population incarcerated for a drug offense are African American or Latino, and almost half of the incarcerated individuals serving a life sentence or life without parole (LWOP) are African American or Latino (Donnelly, 2017; Heley & Eberhardt, 2018; Kovera, 2019; Monk, 2019). There are similar trends in younger populations, too. "African Americans are 4.1 times as likely to be committed to secure placements as White non-Hispanic individuals, American Indians are 3.1 times as likely, and Hispanics are 1.5 times as likely. Although levels of youth confinement have significantly declined in recent years, the racial gap between African Americans and American Indians versus white non-Hispanic youth has increased" (Kovera, 2019, 1139).

Data Parameters and Methods

This exempt study was reviewed by the Washington State Institutional Review Board; this study does not intend to generalize any findings.

The data utilized for this study came from the Washington State Patrol (WSP), Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) from Jan. 1, 2012, to Dec. 31, 2018. The data was matched from these agencies using a combination of first name, last name, and date of birth. Both WSP and AOC data included multiple possible spellings for first and last names; to help lower the error risk all possibilities were tested from both data sets against each other. Any cases that were missing a date of birth or resulted in multiple matches between datasets were removed. Matched individuals were then further linked

between databases using a 'fuzzy match' (i.e., data preparation technique used to unite records that should match but currently do not) within five days of the listed offense date. This would ensure the observed records pertained to the same case.

- WSP maintains arrest and policing databases that the state patrol records. For this study, arrest date, gender, and race were utilized. Due to the potential that an individual can be arrested multiple times, there is a high likelihood of duplicative individuals, and an inflation in numbers. The arrests included in the analysis were restricted to those with offense dates occurring between 2012 to 2018. This helped follow the same time frames within the other administrative data utilized. Unique arrest events were defined as an arrest of a specific individual on a specific day. If an arrest event included multiple offenses, those were totaled within the unique arrest event. The dataset included 934,536 unique arrest events recorded within the time parameters.
- AOC maintains a statewide electronic court records database for all cases that courts see in Washington (Superior Court and Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (CLJ)). Court records included in the analysis were restricted to those with recorded offense dates occurring between 2012 to 2018. This helped follow the same time frames that the other administrative data used. Due to the potential that an individual can be seen by the courts multiple times, there is a high likelihood of duplicative individuals, and an inflation in numbers. The dataset included 738,855 unique sentencing events recorded within the time parameters. Unique court records were defined as a record linked to a specific individual for a specific date of offense. And, if multiple offenses or dispositions were connected to that day, this totaled within the unique court record.
- DOC maintains information for people incarcerated in state DOC facilities and for people under community supervision in Washington. The prison admissions records included in the analysis were restricted to those with recorded offense dates occurring between 2012 to 2018. This helped follow the same time frames that the other administrative data used. Only first-time admissions and re-admits were used in this dataset. Due to the potential that an individual can be admitted to prison multiple times, there is a high likelihood of duplicative individuals, and an inflation in numbers. The dataset included 27,075 unique admission events recorded within the time parameters.

Further operationalizations and data parameters include:

1. **Gender and race.** Two separate gender and race operationalizations were utilized in the current study:
 - a. Population estimates retrieved from the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM),
and
 - b. Criminal justice involved individuals retrieved from WSP's race and gender classification.

It is important to note that any race analysis across criminal justice decision points (and the WSP, AOC, and DOC data), is negatively impacted by true reliability and validity. Race data is often misclassified, which means limitations impact this current study. At the time of publication, the Census Bureau had not released all the data that OFM needed to fully update the Small Area Demographic Estimates (SADE) and related products. Instead, the 2020 Census data released so far were utilized to provide preliminary county-level data updates. All other 2011 through 2020 OFM estimates are based on 2010 census data.

Limitations

Several limitations influenced the findings of this report. The data used in this project included solely publicly available administrative data and the lack of detail or richness significantly limits any conclusions yielded from this work. No information on the type or severity of offense was provided which could skew results. While this report is intended to provide an assessment of the racial disparities in the criminal justice system, this report does not reflect the true magnitude racial disparities in the criminal justice system and should be interpreted cautiously.

The data from each agency also introduces limitations to this work. While the WSP offered arrest data, this data was limited to only WSP arrests that they recorded; there are other law enforcement agencies that can arrest, and this

data does not reflect a true picture of arrests in Washington. Furthermore, DOC data only includes information about incarcerated individuals within one of the 12 facilities operated by the DOC (and potentially work release and out of statement placement admissions) – there is no information about jail incarceration or even out-of-state incarceration. Similar to limitations within the other agencies, the AOC data might not provide a full picture of court events in Washington since some courts (such as the Seattle Municipal Court) does not employ the Judicial Information System (JIS) that AOC employs to presented activity in the Washington courts. While some limitations are provided in this report, there are likely more that could impact information and conclusions yielded from this work. Data regarding criminal justice activity should be interpreted with caution.

This was one of the first efforts to combine different criminal justice administrative data sources since different criminal justice agencies compile and maintain the data. The linkages SAC completed for this modest project is still novel and the state needs continued updates. However, the siloed nature of the state’s criminal justice records complicates the ability to link criminal justice data together. One of the larger concerns in linking state administrative data is the lack of common entity identifiers across these different criminal justice data sets. This applies especially since there is no standard way to validate names and demographic information (e.g., race, age, gender, etc.) or missing, inconsistent, unmatched, or incomplete data sets. This can hamper data linkage. And, there is no true way to standardize variables across these unique data sets, which produces variability between identifiers.

While discussed above, it merits repeating that the demographic assessment must be interpreted with caution due to the limitations of the data. It is important to note that any analysis of race across criminal justice decision points and this criminal justice data is negatively impacted by true reliability and validity. This is true especially since race data can be misclassified. In addition, since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication, some of OFM’s estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data, and the demographics present at that time. Lastly, WSP and U.S. Census Bureau data did not present similar racial categories. This means comparisons cannot truly be made amongst the racial categories. While the U.S. Census demographic data is likely reported by the individual who completes the census survey, the WSP demographic data differs: It’s likely reported by law enforcement who are identifying individuals as a specific gender or a specific race. It is important to note that WSP demographic data was used for WSP arrest events, AOC sentencing events, and DOC admission events, which can present with limitations. Lastly, due to the matching process, the racial distributions could be impacted by the matching process as communities of color. This means they are more likely to be excluded during that matching process because they have higher rates of missing and inaccurate data in names and date of birth.

Results

The study analyses are descriptive (e.g., generating summaries on means and counts) and non-generalizable in nature, and results are modest in nature. Inferences and implications are limiting, and results should be interpreted cautiously. Limitations are discussed in aforementioned section.

Unique WSP arrest events and population estimates of Washington

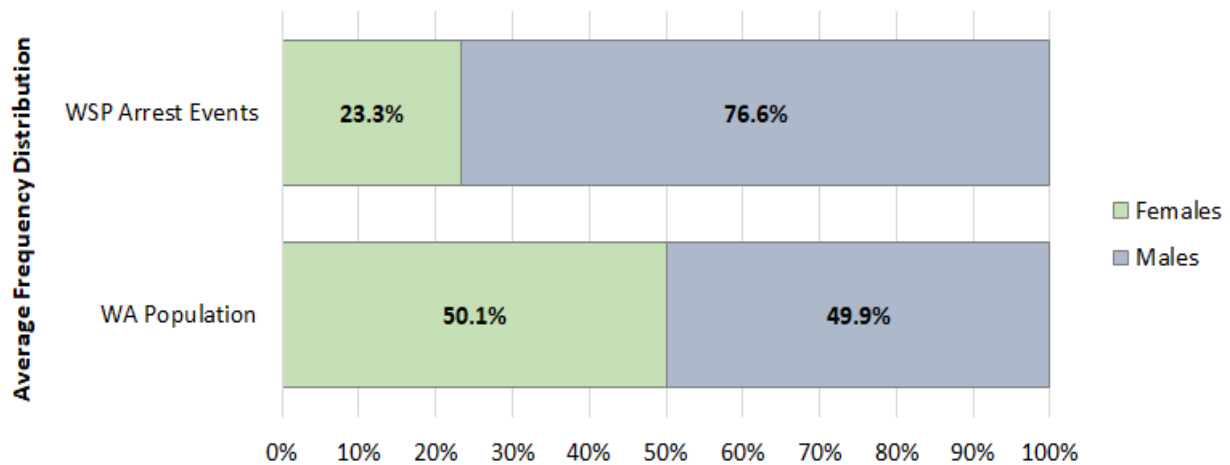
Table 1 shows the counts of unique WSP arrest events and population estimates in Washington by year and by gender. The dataset included 934,536 unique arrest events recorded within the time parameters. However, due to missing and incomplete datasets, 933,337 unique arrest events were utilized for this analysis (99.9% of the records were utilized). While the overall state population is almost evenly distributed in terms of gender, the gender distribution in unique WSP arrest events is skewed towards males. On average, the majority of unique WSP arrest events were more likely perpetuated by males (76.6%) than females (23.3%). Figure 1 shows the average frequency distribution of gender disparity, by unique WSP arrest events and population estimates for Washington.

Table 1. Counts of unique WSP arrest events and population estimates for Washington by year and by gender (Source: WSP and U.S. Census Bureau)

	WSP Arrest Events Source: WSP		Washington State Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau retrieved from OFM	
	Male (N, %)	Female (N, %)	Male (N, %)	Female (N, %)
2012	107,927 (77.1%)	31,920 (22.8%)	3,397,971 (49.8%)	3,419,799 (50.2%)
2013	102,813 (76.7%)	31,114 (23.2%)	3,431,037 (49.9%)	3,451,363 (50.1%)
2014	99,929 (76.5%)	30,534 (23.4%)	3,474,653 (49.9%)	3,493,517 (50.1%)
2015	98,918 (76.5%)	30,175 (23.3%)	3,521,914 (49.9%)	3,539,496 (50.1%)
2016	99,257 (76.6%)	30,094 (23.2%)	3,583,710 (49.9%)	3,599,990 (50.1%)
2017	101,335 (76.2%)	31,513 (23.7%)	3,647,541 (49.9%)	3,662,759 (50.1%)
2018	105,287 (76.3%)	32,521 (23.6%)	3,706,524 (49.9%)	3,721,046 (50.1%)

Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, WSP arrest events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication.

Figure 1. Average frequency distribution of gender disparity, by unique WSP arrest events and population estimates for Washington (Source: WSP and U.S. Census Bureau)



Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, WSP arrest events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication.

Table 2 shows the counts of unique WSP arrest events and population estimates in Washington by year and by race. The dataset included 934,536 unique arrest events recorded within the time parameters. However, due to missing and incomplete datasets, 889,122 unique arrest events were utilized for this analysis (95.1% of the records were used). The population estimates for Washington revealed that the majority of the population were white (81%) while the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color community) presented slightly less than a fifth of the Washington population. However, the majority of the unique WSP arrest events were perpetuated by individuals identified as white. And more than a tenth (12.8% in 2013 to 13.7% in 2018) of the unique WSP arrest events were perpetuated by individuals identified as African American (not including other members of the BIPOC community).

In 2018, while the unique WSP arrest events decreased for individuals identified as Asian Islander, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, the unique WSP arrest events increased for individuals who identified as African American. Figure 2 shows the average frequency distribution of gender disparity, by unique AOC arrest events and population estimates for Washington.

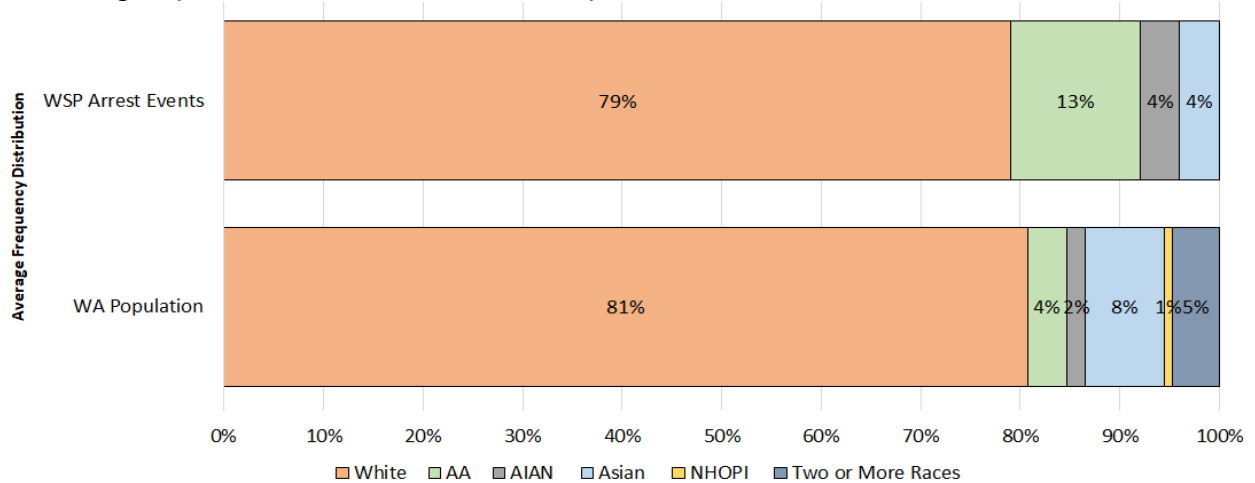
Table 2. Counts of unique WSP arrest events and population estimates for Washington by year and by race (Source: WSP and U.S. Census Bureau)

WSP Arrest Events (Source: WSP)					
	White	AA	AI/AN	Asian or Pacific Islander	
2012	106,374 (79.3%)	17,725 (13.2%)	5,144 (3.7%)	4,955 (3.8%)	
2013	101,730 (79.3%)	16,714 (13.0%)	5,137 (3.6%)	4,647 (4.0%)	
2014	99,245 (79.6%)	15,949 (12.8%)	4,903 (3.7%)	4,564 (3.9%)	
2015	97,493 (79.2%)	16,113 (13.1%)	4,911 (3.7%)	4,505 (4.0%)	
2016	97,177 (79.2%)	15,912 (13.0%)	5,038 (3.7%)	4,602 (4.1%)	
2017	98,839 (78.6%)	16,823 (13.4%)	4,984 (4.1%)	5,160 (4.0%)	
2018	102,560 (78.6%)	17,819 (13.7%)	4,863 (4.0%)	5,236 (3.7%)	

Washington State Population (Source: U.S. Census Bureau retrieved by OFM)						
	White	AA	AI/AN	Asian	NHOPI	Two or more races
2012	5,583,952 (81.9%)	258,262 (3.8%)	123,975 (1.8%)	504,478 (7.4%)	44,870 (.7%)	302,233 (4.4%)
2013	5,614,896 (81.6%)	263,231 (3.8%)	125,372 (1.8%)	518,205 (7.5%)	46,315 (.7%)	314,381 (4.6%)
2014	5,656,054 (81.2%)	270,427 (3.9%)	127,574 (1.8%)	538,928 (7.7%)	48,367 (.7%)	326,820 (4.7%)
2015	5,704,884 (80.8%)	277,380 (3.9%)	129,780 (1.8%)	561,331 (7.9%)	50,140 (.7%)	337,895 (4.8%)
2016	5,774,170 (80.4%)	286,814 (4.0%)	132,404 (1.8%)	588,265 (8.2%)	52,366 (.7%)	349,681 (4.9%)
2017	5,841,468 (79.9%)	296,766 (4.1%)	134,676 (1.8%)	620,150 (8.5%)	54,637 (.7%)	362,603 (5.0%)
2018	5,894,435 (79.4%)	307,228 (4.1%)	136,431 (1.8%)	657,141 (8.8%)	56,915 (.7%)	375,420 (5.1%)

Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, WSP arrest events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication. WSP and U.S. Census Bureau data did not present with similar racial categories, and caution should be taken when interpreting results. Definitions: African American (AA); American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI).

Figure 2. Average frequency distribution of racial disparity, by unique WSP arrest events and population estimates for Washington (Source: WSP and U.S. Census Bureau)



Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, WSP arrest events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication. WSP and U.S. Census Bureau data did not present with similar racial categories, and caution should be taken when interpreting results. Definitions: African American (AA); American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI).

Table 3 shows the counts of unique WSP arrest events and population estimates in Washington by year, by gender and by race. The dataset included 934,536 unique arrest events recorded within the time parameters, However, due to missing and incomplete datasets, 888,278 unique arrest events were utilized for this analysis (95.0% of the records were used). Findings reveal while population estimates of African American males make up approximately 4% of the state’s population, they make up more than a tenth (an average of 14%) of the WSP arrest events. This trend is

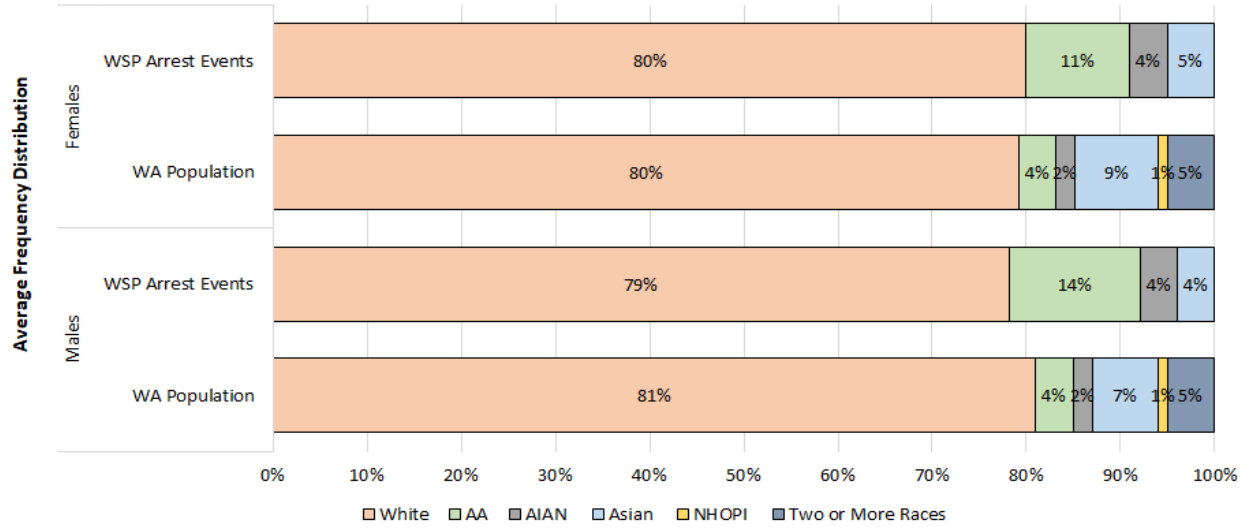
similar to their female counterpart. Figure 3 shows the average frequency distribution of gender and racial disparity, by unique AOC arrest events and population estimates for Washington.

Table 3. Counts of unique WSP arrest events and population estimates for Washington by year, by gender, and by race (Source: WSP and U.S. Census Bureau)

		WSP Arrest Events (Source: WSP)					
Females		White	AA	AI/AN	Asian or Pacific Islander		
	2012	24,585 (80.1%)	3,487 (11.4%)	1,442 (4.7%)	1,175 (3.8%)		
	2013	24,013 (80.4%)	3,358 (11.2%)	1,412 (4.7%)	1,082 (3.6%)		
	2014	23,480 (80.3%)	3,209 (11.0%)	1,439 (4.9%)	1,112 (3.8%)		
	2015	23,321 (80.8%)	3,085 (10.7%)	1,453 (5.0%)	994 (3.4%)		
	2016	23,139 (80.5%)	3,100 (10.8%)	1,485 (5.2%)	1,012 (3.5%)		
	2017	24,075 (80.3%)	3,296 (11.0%)	1,433 (4.8%)	1,180 (3.9%)		
	2018	24,799 (80.3%)	3,500 (11.3%)	1,472 (4.8%)	1,120 (3.6%)		
	Washington State Population (Source: U.S. Census Bureau retrieved by OFM)						
			White	AA	AI/AN	Asian	NHOPI
2012	2,792,474 (81.7%)	119,127 (3.5%)	61,177 (1.8%)	271,497 (5.6%)	22,309 (.7%)	153,216 (4.5%)	
2013	2,806,993 (81.3%)	121,386 (3.5%)	61,840 (1.8%)	278,836 (5.7%)	23,028 (.7%)	159,280 (4.6%)	
2014	2,826,439 (80.9%)	124,596 (3.6%)	62,904 (1.8%)	289,928 (5.6%)	24,057 (.7%)	165,594 (4.7%)	
2015	2,849,627 (80.5%)	127,837 (3.6%)	63,951 (1.8%)	301,935 (5.4%)	24,938 (.7%)	171,208 (4.8%)	
2016	2,882,838 (80.1%)	132,191 (3.7%)	65,214 (1.8%)	316,458 (5.4%)	26,036 (.7%)	177,254 (4.9%)	
2017	2,915,139 (79.6%)	136,796 (3.7%)	66,306 (1.8%)	333,571 (5.2%)	27,158 (.7%)	183,788 (5.0%)	
2018	2,940,392 (79.0%)	141,391 (3.8%)	67,129 (1.8%)	353,560 (5.6%)	28,283 (.7%)	190,291 (5.1%)	
		WSP Arrest Events (Source: WSP)					
Males		White	AA	AI/AN	Asian or Pacific Islander		
	2012	81,695 (79.0%)	14,233 (13.8%)	3,695 (3.6%)	3,776 (3.7%)		
	2013	77,632 (79.0%)	13,345 (13.6%)	3,720 (3.8%)	3,558 (3.6%)		
	2014	75,677 (79.4%)	12,733 (13.4%)	3,461 (3.6%)	3,449 (3.6%)		
	2015	74,064 (78.8%)	13,014 (13.8%)	3,455 (3.7%)	3,504 (3.7%)		
	2016	73,945 (78.8%)	12,800 (13.6%)	3,546 (3.8%)	3,588 (3.8%)		
	2017	74,664 (78.0%)	13,513 (14.1%)	3,539 (3.7%)	3,979 (3.7%)		
	2018	77,644 (78.1%)	14,302 (14.4%)	3,379 (3.4%)	4,110 (3.4%)		
	Washington State Population (Source: U.S. Census Bureau retrieved by OFM)						
			White	AA	AI/AN	Asian	NHOPI
2012	2,791,478 (82.2%)	139,135 (4.1%)	62,798 (1.8%)	232,981 (6.9%)	22,561 (0.7%)	149,017 (4.4%)	
2013	2,807,903 (81.8%)	141,845 (4.1%)	63,532 (1.9%)	239,369 (7.0%)	23,287 (0.7%)	155,101 (4.5%)	
2014	2,829,615 (81.4%)	145,831 (4.2%)	64,670 (1.9%)	249,000 (7.2%)	24,310 (0.7%)	161,226 (4.6%)	
2015	2,855,257 (81.1%)	149,543 (4.2%)	65,829 (1.9%)	259,396 (7.4%)	25,202 (0.7%)	166,687 (4.7%)	
2016	2,891,332 (80.7%)	154,623 (4.13%)	67,190 (1.9%)	271,807 (7.6%)	26,330 (0.7%)	172,427 (4.8%)	
2017	2,926,329 (80.2%)	159,970 (4.4%)	68,370 (1.9%)	286,579 (7.9%)	27,479 (0.8%)	178,815 (4.9%)	
2018	2,954,043 (79.7%)	165,837 (4.5%)	69,302 (1.9%)	303,581 (8.2%)	28,632 (0.8%)	185,129 (5.0%)	

Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, WSP arrest events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication. WSP and U.S. Census Bureau data did not present with similar racial categories, and caution should be taken when interpreting results. Definitions: African American (AA); American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI).

Figure 3. Average frequency distribution of gender and racial disparity, by unique WSP arrest events and population estimates for Washington (Source: WSP and U.S. Census Bureau)



Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, WSP arrest events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication. WSP and U.S. Census Bureau data did not present with similar racial categories, and caution should be taken when interpreting results. Definitions: African American (AA); American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI).

Unique AOC sentencing events and population estimates of Washington

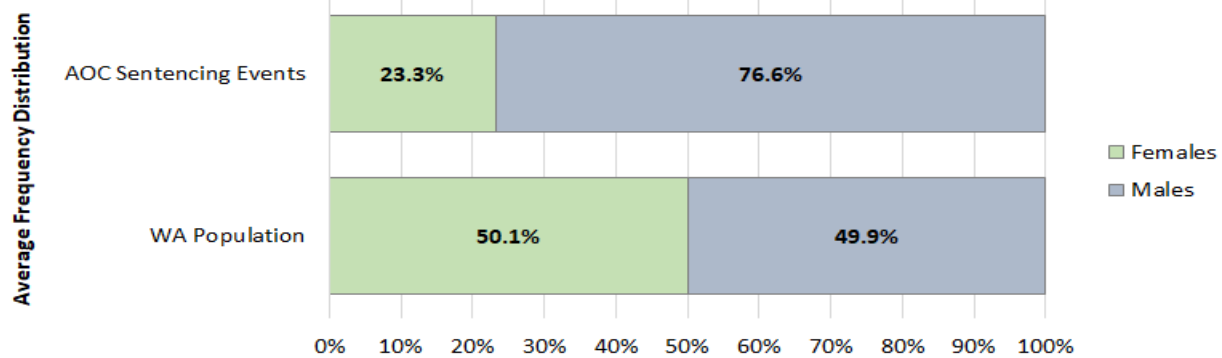
Table 4 shows the counts of unique AOC sentencing events and population estimates in Washington by year and by gender. The dataset included 738,855 unique sentencing events recorded within the time parameters. However, due to missing and incomplete datasets, 737,947 unique sentencing events were utilized for this analysis (99.9% of the records). While the overall state population is almost evenly distributed in terms of gender, the gender distribution in unique AOC sentencing events is skewed towards males. On average, the majority of unique AOC sentencing events for this report were more likely perpetuated by males (76.6%) than females (23.3%). Figure 4 shows the average frequency distribution of gender disparity, by unique AOC sentencing events and population estimates for Washington.

Table 4. Counts of unique AOC sentencing events and population estimates for Washington by year and by gender (Source: AOC, WSP, and U.S. Census Bureau)

	AOC Sentencing Events Source: AOC and WSP		Washington State Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau retrieved by OFM	
	Male (N, %)	Female (N, %)	Male (N, %)	Female (N, %)
2012	85,195 (77.2%)	25,211 (22.8%)	3,397,971 (49.8%)	3,419,799 (50.2%)
2013	81,120 (76.7%)	24,647 (23.3%)	3,431,037 (49.9%)	3,451,363 (50.1%)
2014	79,237 (76.6%)	24,205 (23.4%)	3,474,653 (49.9%)	3,493,517 (50.1%)
2015	78,343 (76.6%)	23,986 (23.4%)	3,521,914 (49.9%)	3,539,496 (50.1%)
2016	78,559 (76.7%)	23,922 (23.3%)	3,583,710 (49.9%)	3,599,990 (50.1%)
2017	80,130 (76.3%)	24,952 (23.7%)	3,647,541 (49.9%)	3,662,759 (50.1%)
2018	82,727 (76.3%)	25,713 (23.7%)	3,706,524 (49.9%)	3,721,046 (50.1%)

Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, AOC sentencing events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication.

Figure 4. Average frequency distribution of gender disparity, by unique AOC sentencing events and population estimates for Washington (Source: AOC, WSP, and U.S. Census Bureau)



Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, WSP arrest events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication.

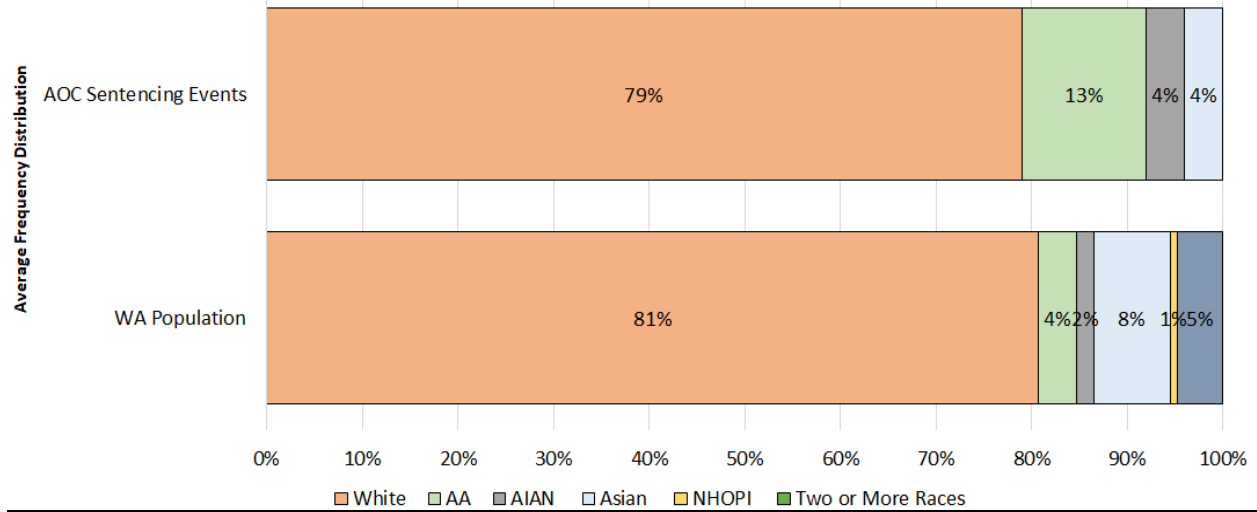
Table 5 shows the counts of unique AOC sentencing events and population estimates in Washington State, by year and by race. The dataset included 738,855 unique AOC sentencing events recorded within the time parameters. However, due to missing and incomplete datasets, 737,947 unique sentencing events were utilized for this analysis (99.9% of the records were used). Findings reveal that in each year, much of the unique AOC sentencing events were perpetuated by individuals identified as white, while more than a tenth (12.1% in 2014 to 12.7% in 2018) of the unique AOC sentencing events were perpetuated by individuals identified as African American. Figure 5 shows the average frequency distribution of racial disparity, by unique AOC sentencing events and population estimates for Washington.

Table 5. Counts of unique AOC sentencing events and population estimates for Washington by year and by gender (Source: AOC, WSP, and U.S. Census Bureau)

		AOC Sentencing Events (Source: AOC and WSP)				
	White	AA	AI/AN	Asian or Pacific Islander		
2012	85,102 (80.2%)	13,194 (12.4%)	4,083 (3.8%)	3,764 (3.5%)		
2013	81,415 (80.1%)	12,502 (12.3%)	4,064 (4.0%)	3,606 (3.5%)		
2014	79,866 (80.5%)	12,056 (12.1%)	3,803 (3.8%)	3,518 (3.5%)		
2015	78,250 (80.1%)	12,118 (12.4%)	3,884 (4.0%)	3,496 (3.6%)		
2016	78,099 (80.0%)	11,945 (12.2%)	4,013 (4.1%)	3,517 (3.6%)		
2017	79,271 (79.4%)	12,581 (12.6%)	3,956 (4.0%)	4,000 (4.0%)		
2018	82,155 (79.7%)	13,108 (12.7%)	3,776 (3.7%)	4,067 (3.9%)		
		Washington State Population (Source: U.S. Census Bureau retrieved by OFM)				
	White	AA	AI/AN	Asian	NHOPI	Two or more races
2012	5,583,952 (81.9%)	258,262 (3.8%)	123,975 (1.8%)	504,478 (7.4%)	44,870 (.7%)	302,233 (4.4%)
2013	5,614,896 (81.6%)	263,231 (3.8%)	125,372 (1.8%)	518,205 (7.5%)	46,315 (.7%)	314,381 (4.6%)
2014	5,656,054 (81.2%)	270,427 (3.9%)	127,574 (1.8%)	538,928 (7.7%)	48,367 (.7%)	326,820 (4.7%)
2015	5,704,884 (80.8%)	277,380 (3.9%)	129,780 (1.8%)	561,331 (7.9%)	50,140 (.7%)	337,895 (4.8%)
2016	5,774,170 (80.4%)	286,814 (4.0%)	132,404 (1.8%)	588,265 (8.2%)	52,366 (.7%)	349,681 (4.9%)
2017	5,841,468 (79.9%)	296,766 (4.1%)	134,676 (1.8%)	620,150 (8.5%)	54,637 (.7%)	362,603 (5.0%)
2018	5,894,435 (79.4%)	307,228 (4.1%)	136,431 (1.8%)	657,141 (8.8%)	56,915 (.7%)	375,420 (5.1%)

Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, AOC sentencing events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication. WSP and U.S. Census Bureau data did not present with similar racial categories, and caution should be taken when interpreting results. Definitions: African American (AA); American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI).

Figure 5. Average frequency distribution of racial disparity, by unique AOC sentencing events and Washington population (Source: AOC, WSP, and U.S. Census Bureau)



Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, AOC sentencing events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication. WSP and U.S. Census Bureau data did not present with similar racial categories, and caution should be taken when interpreting results. Definitions: African American (AA); American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI).

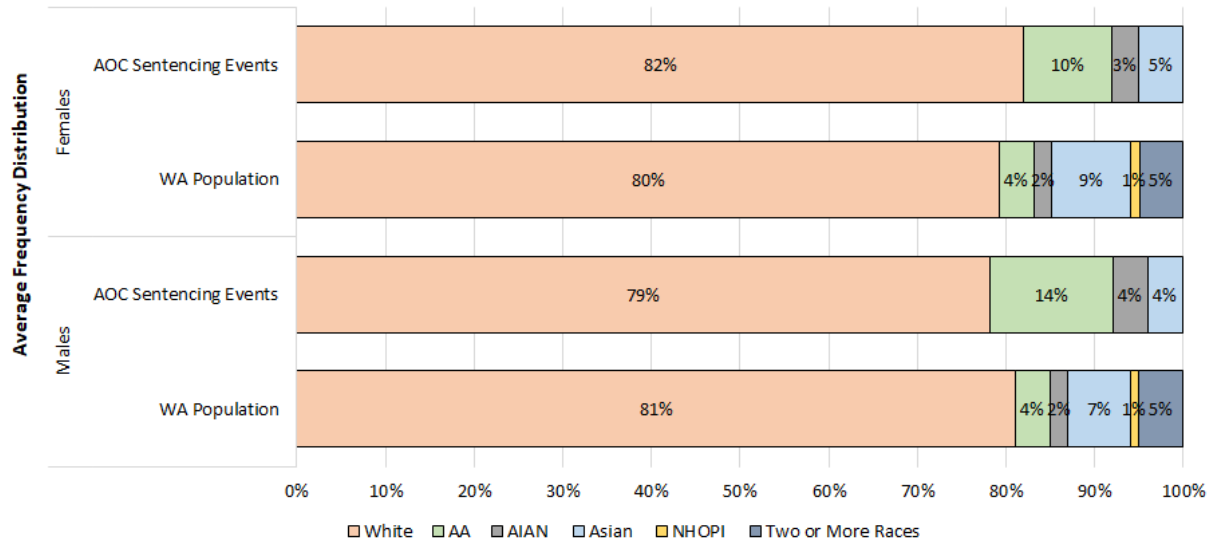
Table 6 shows the counts of unique AOC sentencing events and population estimates in Washington by year, by gender, and by race. The dataset included 738,855 unique AOC sentencing events recorded within the time parameters. However due to missing and incomplete datasets, 707,321 unique sentencing events were utilized for this analysis (95.7% of the records were used). The population estimates revealed African American males make up approximately 4% of the state population, and they make up more than a tenth (an average of 14%) of the AOC sentencing events. Figure 6 shows the average frequency distribution of gender and racial disparity, by unique AOC sentencing events and population estimates for Washington.

Table 6. Counts of unique AOC sentencing events and population estimates for Washington by year, by gender, and by race (Source: AOC, WSP and U.S. Census Bureau)

AOC Sentencing Events (Source: AOC & WSP)							
Females		White	AA	AI/AN	Asian or Pacific Islander		
	2012	19,767 (81.5%)	2,507 (10.3%)	1,144 (4.7%)	840 (3.5%)		
	2013	19,350 (81.7%)	2,418 (10.2%)	1,120 (4.7%)	809 (3.4%)		
	2014	18,962 (81.6%)	2,328 (10.0%)	1,102 (4.7%)	844 (3.6%)		
	2015	18,862 (82.2%)	2,240 (9.8%)	1,120 (4.9%)	728 (3.2%)		
	2016	18,769 (82.0%)	2,252 (9.8%)	1,135 (5.0%)	732 (3.2%)		
	2017	19,386 (81.7%)	2,317 (9.8%)	1,133 (4.9%)	886 (3.7%)		
	2018	20,055 (82.0%)	2,408 (9.8%)	1,149 (4.7%)	844 (3.5%)		
		Washington State Population (Source: U.S. Census Bureau retrieved by OFM)					
		White	AA	AI/AN	Asian	NHOPI	Two or more races
2012	2,792,474 (81.7%)	119,127 (3.5%)	61,177 (1.8%)	271,497 (5.6%)	22,309 (.7%)	153,216 (4.5%)	
2013	2,806,993 (81.3%)	121,386 (3.5%)	61,840 (1.8%)	278,836 (5.7%)	23,028 (.7%)	159,280 (4.6%)	
2014	2,826,439 (80.9%)	124,596 (3.6%)	62,904 (1.8%)	289,928 (5.6%)	24,057 (.7%)	165,594 (4.7%)	
2015	2,849,627 (80.5%)	127,837 (3.6%)	63,951 (1.8%)	301,935 (5.4%)	24,938 (.7%)	171,208 (4.8%)	
2016	2,882,838 (80.1%)	132,191 (3.7%)	65,214 (1.8%)	316,458 (5.4%)	26,036 (.7%)	177,254 (4.9%)	
2017	2,915,139 (79.6%)	136,796 (3.7%)	66,306 (1.8%)	333,571 (5.2%)	27,158 (.7%)	183,788 (5.0%)	
2018	2,940,392 (79.0%)	141,391 (3.8%)	67,129 (1.8%)	353,560 (5.6%)	28,283 (.7%)	190,291 (5.1%)	
AOC Sentencing Events (Source: AOC & WSP)							
Males		White	AA	AI/AN	Asian or Pacific Islander		
	2012	81,695 (79.0%)	14,233 (13.8%)	3,695 (3.6%)	3,776 (3.7%)		
	2013	77,632 (79.0%)	13,345 (13.6%)	3,720 (3.8%)	3,558 (3.6%)		
	2014	75,677 (79.4%)	12,733 (13.4%)	3,461 (3.6%)	3,449 (3.6%)		
	2015	74,064 (78.8%)	13,014 (13.8%)	3,455 (3.7%)	3,504 (3.7%)		
	2016	73,945 (78.8%)	12,800 (13.6%)	3,546 (3.8%)	3,588 (3.8%)		
	2017	74,664 (78.0%)	13,513 (14.1%)	3,539 (3.7%)	3,979 (3.7%)		
	2018	77,644 (78.1%)	14,302 (14.4%)	3,379 (3.4%)	4,110 (3.4%)		
		Washington State Population (Source: U.S. Census Bureau retrieved by OFM)					
		White	AA	AI/AN	Asian	NHOPI	Two or more races
2012	2,791,478 (82.2%)	139,135 (4.1%)	62,798 (1.8%)	232,981 (6.9%)	22,561 (0.7%)	149,017 (4.4%)	
2013	2,807,903 (81.8%)	141,845 (4.1%)	63,532 (1.9%)	239,369 (7.0%)	23,287 (0.7%)	155,101 (4.5%)	
2014	2,829,615 (81.4%)	145,831 (4.2%)	64,670 (1.9%)	249,000 (7.2%)	24,310 (0.7%)	161,226 (4.6%)	
2015	2,855,257 (81.1%)	149,543 (4.2%)	65,829 (1.9%)	259,396 (7.4%)	25,202 (0.7%)	166,687 (4.7%)	
2016	2,891,332 (80.7%)	154,623 (4.13%)	67,190 (1.9%)	271,807 (7.6%)	26,330 (0.7%)	172,427 (4.8%)	
2017	2,926,329 (80.2%)	159,970 (4.4%)	68,370 (1.9%)	286,579 (7.9%)	27,479 (0.8%)	178,815 (4.9%)	
2018	2,954,043 (79.7%)	165,837 (4.5%)	69,302 (1.9%)	303,581 (8.2%)	28,632 (0.8%)	185,129 (5.0%)	

Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, AOC sentencing events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication. WSP and U.S. Census Bureau data did not present with similar racial categories, and caution should be taken when interpreting results. Definitions: African American (AA); American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI).

Figure 6. Average frequency distribution of gender and racial disparity, by unique AOC sentencing events and population estimates for Washington (Source: AOC, WSP and U.S. Census Bureau)



Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, AOC sentencing events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication. WSP and U.S. Census Bureau data did not present with similar racial categories, and caution should be taken when interpreting results. Definitions: African American (AA); American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI).

Unique DOC admission events and population estimates of Washington

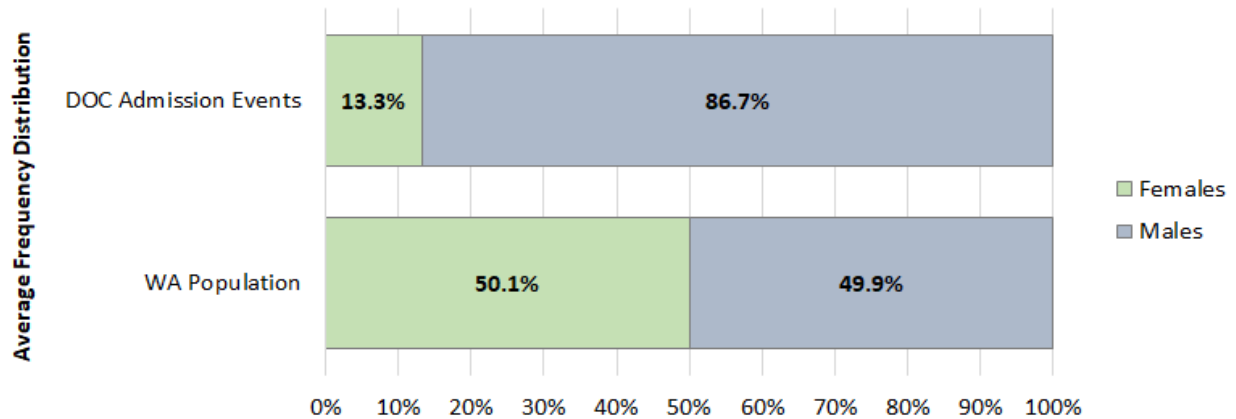
Table 7 shows the counts of unique DOC admission events and population estimates in Washington by year and by gender. The dataset included 27,075 unique DOC admission events recorded within the time parameters. However, due to missing and incomplete datasets, 26,565 unique admission events were utilized for this analysis (98.1% of the records were used). Please note, though, that the data does not reflect actual DOC admission numbers. While the overall state population is almost evenly distributed in terms of gender, the gender distribution in unique DOC admission events is skewed towards males. On average, many unique DOC admission events for this report were more likely perpetuated by males (86.7%) than females (13.3%). Figure 7 shows the average frequency distribution of gender disparity, by unique DOC admission events and population estimates for Washington.

Table 7. Counts of unique DOC admission events and population estimates for Washington by year and by gender (Source: DOC, WSP, and U.S. Census Bureau)

	DOC Admission Events Source: DOC		Washington State Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau retrieved by OFM	
	Male (N, %)	Female (N, %)	Male (N, %)	Female (N, %)
2012	2,525 (87.0%)	377 (13.0%)	3,397,971 (49.8%)	3,419,799 (50.2%)
2013	3,493 (87.1%)	516 (12.9%)	3,431,037 (49.9%)	3,451,363 (50.1%)
2014	3,538 (86.4%)	555 (13.6%)	3,474,653 (49.9%)	3,493,517 (50.1%)
2015	3,548 (87.0%)	528 (13.0%)	3,521,914 (49.9%)	3,539,496 (50.1%)
2016	3,499 (85.8%)	580 (14.2%)	3,583,710 (49.9%)	3,599,990 (50.1%)
2017	3,813 (86.2%)	612 (13.8%)	3,647,541 (49.9%)	3,662,759 (50.1%)
2018	2,613 (87.7%)	368 (12.3%)	3,706,524 (49.9%)	3,721,046 (50.1%)

Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, DOC admission events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication.

Figure 7. Average frequency distribution of gender disparity, by unique DOC admission events and population estimates for Washington (Source: DOC, WSP, and U.S. Census Bureau)



Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, DOC admission events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication.

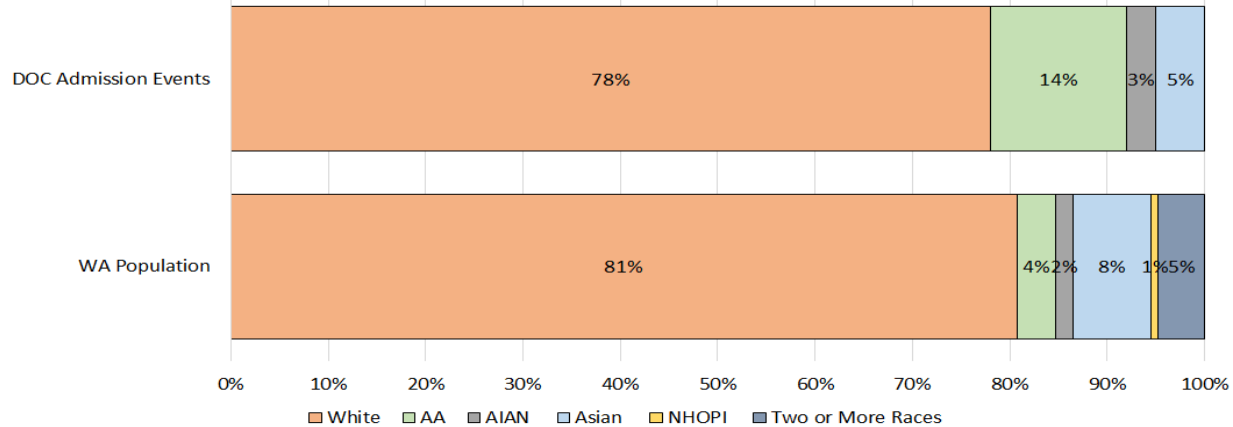
Table 8 shows the counts of unique DOC admission events and population estimates in Washington by year and by race. The dataset included 27,075 unique DOC admission events recorded within the time parameters. However, due to missing and incomplete datasets, 25,215 unique admission events were utilized for this analysis (93.1% of the records were used). Findings reveal that in each year, the majority of the unique DOC admission events were perpetuated by individuals identified as white, while more than a tenth (13.3% in 2014 to 14.3% in 2018) were perpetuated by individuals identified as African American. Figure 8 shows the average frequency distribution of racial disparity, by unique DOC admission events and population estimates for Washington.

Table 8. Counts of unique DOC admission events and population estimates for Washington by year and by gender (Source: DOC, WSP, and U.S. Census Bureau)

		DOC Admission Events (Source: DOC and WSP)				
	White	AA	AI/AN	Asian or Pacific Islander		
2012	2,214 (80.4%)	372 (13.5%)	69 (2.5%)	98 (3.6%)		
2013	2,978 (79.0%)	531 (14.1%)	106 (2.8%)	157 (4.2%)		
2014	3,068 (78.9%)	518 (13.3%)	120 (3.1%)	182 (4.7%)		
2015	3,049 (78.4%)	538 (13.8%)	127 (3.3%)	173 (4.5%)		
2016	3,032 (78.1%)	516 (13.3%)	136 (3.5%)	197 (5.1%)		
2017	3,240 (77.0%)	596 (14.2%)	152 (3.6%)	218 (5.2%)		
2018	2,158 (76.3%)	404 (14.3%)	93 (3.3%)	173 (6.1%)		
		Washington State Population (Source: U.S. Census Bureau retrieved by OFM)				
	White	AA	AI/AN	Asian	NHOPI	Two or more races
2012	5,583,952 (81.9%)	258,262 (3.8%)	123,975 (1.8%)	504,478 (7.4%)	44,870 (.7%)	302,233 (4.4%)
2013	5,614,896 (81.6%)	263,231 (3.8%)	125,372 (1.8%)	518,205 (7.5%)	46,315 (.7%)	314,381 (4.6%)
2014	5,656,054 (81.2%)	270,427 (3.9%)	127,574 (1.8%)	538,928 (7.7%)	48,367 (.7%)	326,820 (4.7%)
2015	5,704,884 (80.8%)	277,380 (3.9%)	129,780 (1.8%)	561,331 (7.9%)	50,140 (.7%)	337,895 (4.8%)
2016	5,774,170 (80.4%)	286,814 (4.0%)	132,404 (1.8%)	588,265 (8.2%)	52,366 (.7%)	349,681 (4.9%)
2017	5,841,468 (79.9%)	296,766 (4.1%)	134,676 (1.8%)	620,150 (8.5%)	54,637 (.7%)	362,603 (5.0%)
2018	5,894,435 (79.4%)	307,228 (4.1%)	136,431 (1.8%)	657,141 (8.8%)	56,915 (.7%)	375,420 (5.1%)

Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, DOC admission events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication. WSP and U.S. Census Bureau data did not present with similar racial categories, and caution should be taken when interpreting results. Definitions: African American (AA); American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI).

Figure 8. Average frequency distribution of racial disparity, by unique DOC admission events and Washington population (Source: DOC, WSP, and U.S. Census Bureau)



Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, DOC admission events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication. WSP and U.S. Census Bureau data did not present with similar racial categories, and caution should be taken when interpreting results. Definitions: African American (AA); American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI).

Table 9 shows the counts of unique DOC admission events and population estimates in Washington by year, by gender, and by race. The dataset included 27,075 unique DOC admission events recorded within the time parameters. However, due to missing and incomplete datasets, 24,915 unique admission events were utilized for this analysis (92.0% of the records were used). Population estimates revealed African American males make up approximately 4% of the state population, and they make up more than a tenth (an average of 15%) of the AOC sentencing events. Figure 9 shows the average frequency distribution of gender and racial disparity, by unique DOC admission events and population estimates for Washington.

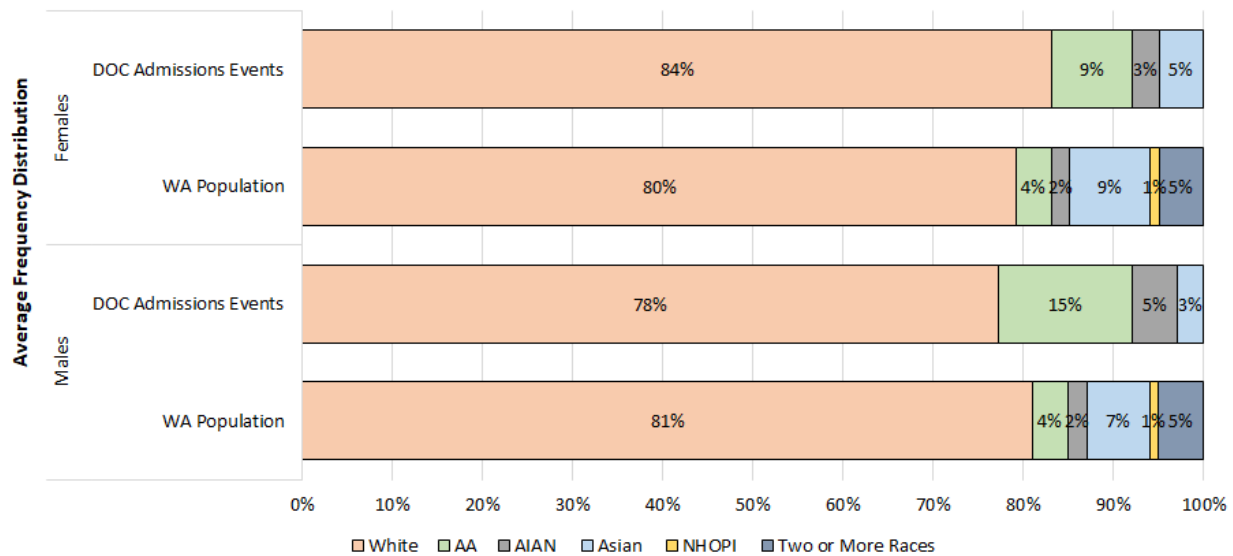
Table 9. Counts of unique DOC admission events and population estimates for Washington by year, by gender, and by race (Source: DOC, WSP and U.S. Census Bureau)

		DOC Admission Events (Source: DOC & WSP)						
		White	AA	AIAN	Asian or Pacific Islander			
Females	2012	286 (86.4%)	28 (8.5%)	10 (3.0%)	--			
	2013	372 (85.9%)	36 (8.3%)	16 (3.7%)	--			
	2014	427 (85.6%)	37 (7.4%)	21 (4.2%)	14 (2.8%)			
	2015	407 (82.9%)	38 (7.7%)	29 (5.9%)	17 (3.5%)			
	2016	442 (81.4%)	44 (8.1%)	38 (7.0%)	19 (3.5%)			
	2017	469 (83.3%)	44 (7.8%)	36 (6.4%)	14 (2.5%)			
	2018	271 (79.7%)	39 (11.5%)	24 (7.1%)	--			
			Washington State Population (Source: U.S. Census Bureau retrieved by OFM)					
			White	AA	AI/AN	Asian	NHOPI	Two or more races
		2012	2,792,474 (81.7%)	119,127 (3.5%)	61,177 (1.8%)	271,497 (5.6%)	22,309 (.7%)	153,216 (4.5%)
	2013	2,806,993 (81.3%)	121,386 (3.5%)	61,840 (1.8%)	278,836 (5.7%)	23,028 (.7%)	159,280 (4.6%)	
	2014	2,826,439 (80.9%)	124,596 (3.6%)	62,904 (1.8%)	289,928 (5.6%)	24,057 (.7%)	165,594 (4.7%)	
	2015	2,849,627 (80.5%)	127,837 (3.6%)	63,951 (1.8%)	301,935 (5.4%)	24,938 (.7%)	171,208 (4.8%)	
	2016	2,882,838 (80.1%)	132,191 (3.7%)	65,214 (1.8%)	316,458 (5.4%)	26,036 (.7%)	177,254 (4.9%)	
	2017	2,915,139 (79.6%)	136,796 (3.7%)	66,306 (1.8%)	333,571 (5.2%)	27,158 (.7%)	183,788 (5.0%)	
	2018	2,940,392 (79.0%)	141,391 (3.8%)	67,129 (1.8%)	353,560 (5.6%)	28,283 (.7%)	190,291 (5.1%)	
		DOC Admission Events (Source: DOC & WSP)						
		White	AA	AI/AN	Asian or Pacific Islander			
Males	2012	1924 (79.6%)	344 (14.2%)	88 (3.6%)	62 (2.6%)			
	2013	2602 (78.1%)	495 (14.9%)	138 (4.1%)	97 (2.9%)			
	2014	2638 (77.9%)	481 (14.2%)	161 (4.8%)	105 (3.1%)			
	2015	2638 (77.8%)	500 (14.7%)	144 (4.2%)	110 (3.2%)			

2016	2589 (77.6%)	472 (14.1%)	159 (4.8%)	117 (3.5%)		
2017	2768 (76.0%)	552 (15.2%)	182 (5.0%)	138 (3.8%)		
2018	1884 (75.8%)	365 (14.7%)	148 (6.0%)	87 (3.5%)		
Washington State Population (Source: U.S. Census Bureau retrieved by OFM)						
	White	AA	AI/AN	Asian	NHOPI	Two or more races
2012	2,791,478 (82.2%)	139,135 (4.1%)	62,798 (1.8%)	232,981 (6.9%)	22,561 (0.7%)	149,017 (4.4%)
2013	2,807,903 (81.8%)	141,845 (4.1%)	63,532 (1.9%)	239,369 (7.0%)	23,287 (0.7%)	155,101 (4.5%)
2014	2,829,615 (81.4%)	145,831 (4.2%)	64,670 (1.9%)	249,000 (7.2%)	24,310 (0.7%)	161,226 (4.6%)
2015	2,855,257 (81.1%)	149,543 (4.2%)	65,829 (1.9%)	259,396 (7.4%)	25,202 (0.7%)	166,687 (4.7%)
2016	2,891,332 (80.7%)	154,623 (4.13%)	67,190 (1.9%)	271,807 (7.6%)	26,330 (0.7%)	172,427 (4.8%)
2017	2,926,329 (80.2%)	159,970 (4.4%)	68,370 (1.9%)	286,579 (7.9%)	27,479 (0.8%)	178,815 (4.9%)
2018	2,954,043 (79.7%)	165,837 (4.5%)	69,302 (1.9%)	303,581 (8.2%)	28,632 (0.8%)	185,129 (5.0%)

Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, DOC admission events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication. WSP and U.S. Census Bureau data did not present with similar racial categories, and caution should be taken when interpreting results. Definitions: African American (AA); American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI).

Figure 9. Counts of unique DOC admission events and population estimates for Washington by year, by gender, and by race (Source: DOC, WSP and U.S. Census Bureau)



Note: Due to missing, incomplete, unmatched, or inconsistent data, DOC admission events results may be under reported. Some of the OFM population estimates were based on 2010 U.S. Census data since the 2020 U.S. Census data was not fully released by the time of publication. WSP and U.S. Census Bureau data did not present with similar racial categories, and caution should be taken when interpreting results. Definitions: African American (AA); American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI).

Discussion and Conclusion

It is essential to assess disparities in the criminal justice system. More specifically, it's crucial to assess disparities by each decision point (i.e., policing/arrests, trial/sentencing, and incarceration/community supervision), is Washington wants to have a true understanding of the extent of disparities. An assessment of potential disparities in the criminal justice system could also serve as a useful tool for policymakers and the public to assess the fairness at each decision point.

The study analyses were descriptive and non-generalizable in nature. While inferences and implications are limiting, and results should be interpreted cautiously, this study did provide some interesting trends that continue to mirror previous research endeavors.

While the overall state population is almost evenly distributed in terms of gender, in all decision points (i.e., WSP arrest events, AOC sentencing events, and DOC admission events), more than 3/4ths of the sample was identified as male. While 4% of the overall state population reported as African American within the U.S. Census Bureau, the African American community accounted for 13% of two criminal justice decision points, WSP arrest events and AOC sentencing events, and 14% of DOC admission events. While 8% of the overall state population reported as Asian within the U.S. Census Bureau, the Asian community accounted for approximately 4% of two criminal justice decision points, WSP arrest events and AOC sentencing events, and 5% of DOC admission events. Further results show a slightly more significant racial disparity in the male population than the female population, but similar trends are consistent throughout with the BIPOC community. And these account for more of the distribution during the criminal justice points than in the U.S. population estimates.

While there are limitations that impact this work, the evidence of differential treatment, unequal dispensation, and injustice in the “justice” system, data continues to show that racial disparities persist at every point in the criminal justice system in our state and across the nation. These descriptive (e.g., generating summaries on means and counts) and non-generalizable analyses provide a window to the potential disparities found in the Washington’s criminal justice system. The state needs more comprehensive research to understand where disparities exist and how policies have impacted those differences over time.

Disclaimer

This material utilizes confidential data from WSP, AOC, and DOC. The views expressed here are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the WSP, AOC, DOC, or other data contributors. Any errors are attributable to the author(s).

References

Brame, R., Bushway, S. D., Paternoster, R., & Turner, M. G. (2014). Demographic patterns of cumulative arrest prevalence by ages 18 and 23. *Crime & Delinquency*, 60(3), 471-486. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011128713514801>

Clair, M., & Winter, A. S. (2016). How judges think about racial disparities: Situational decision-making in the criminal justice system. *Criminology*, 54(2), 332-359. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9125.12106>

Donnelly, E. A. (2017). The politics of racial disparity reform: Racial inequality and criminal justice policymaking in the states. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 42(1), 1-27. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-016-9344-8>

Durose, M. et al. (2007). U.S. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Office of Justice Programs. *Contacts Between Policy and the Public*. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpp05.pdf>.

Heley, R. C., & Eberhardt, J. L. (2018). The numbers don’t speak for themselves: Racial disparities and the persistence of inequality in the criminal justice system. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 27(3), 183-187. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721418763931>

Kim, J., & Kiesel, A. (2018). The long shadow of police racial treatment: Racial disparity in criminal justice processing. *Public Administration Review*, 78(3), 422-431. <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.12842>

Kovera, M. B. (2019). Racial disparities in the criminal justice system: Prevalence, causes, and a search for solutions. *Journal of Social Issues*, 75(4), 1139-1164. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josi.12355>

Monk, E. P. (2019). The color of punishment: African Americans, skin tone, and the criminal justice system. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 42(10), 1593-1612. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2018.1508736>

Piquero, A. R. (2015). Understanding race/ethnicity differences in offending across the life course: Gaps and opportunities. *Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology*, 1(1), 21-32. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40865-015-0004-3>